

June 17, 2005

Dear Allen Bandsman,

We hope you are having a relaxing summer and are anticipating lots of fun and hard work in the Allen Escadrille! We're excited about the up-coming year and know you are as well. Our band is the BEST...and we're going to keep it that way!

As a marching bandsman, you will play an important part in determining the degree of success that the Allen Band will experience this year. The fine musical tradition of the Allen Band did not come about by accident. It was developed through the hard work and sacrifice of both the students and the directors. We will expect this same willingness to work and dedication of purpose from you.

REGISTRATION

Band "registration" will be Saturday, July 30. Registration times will be as follows: Seniors - 9:00 a.m.; Juniors -10:00 a.m.; Sophomores - 11:30 a.m.; Freshmen (last name A-M) - 1:30 p.m.; Freshman (last name N-Z) – 3:00 p.m. Please bring your completed student information sheet (enclosed with this letter) with you to registration. School instruments, uniforms, and music will be issued at this time. In addition, you will need to buy a band shirt (if you do not already have one from last year), and marching shoes (if you do not have or have outgrown). Garment bags, yard signs, booster memberships, and other opportunities will be available. (Parents, please bring your checkbook: band polo shirts (\$22, band shoes (\$ 25 ea, black pr & white pr), game drinks (\$30) and *school instrument* rental fees (\$75) are required.) Parents, you are also encouraged to attend the registration so that we will have a chance to meet you. There will also be opportunities to volunteer for various activities throughout the year. Your support plays a vital role in the success of our students so please come out and join us.

SUMMER REHEARSALS

****All student leaders will meet Wed., July 27, 1-4pm in the high school band hall.**

Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, July 28, with Freshmen (and new marchers and old people who want the basics are also encouraged to participate) from 8:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m at the AHS Practice Field. Please report at 8:00 to pick up your name badge before reporting to the field. The Boosters will provide a new member welcome lunch on Thursday only. Instruments are not needed on that Thursday. ALL students (upperclassmen included) report Friday, July 29, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. This schedule will continue until school starts, however on Wednesday, August 3, due to teacher meetings, we will meet in the afternoon only from 1:00 – 5:00pm. During rehearsals, we will: (1) Learn and review basic skills of marching, (2) Get to know other members of the group, (3) Learn stand tunes, and (4) Learn what is expected of you as an Allen Bandsman. Please wear comfortable clothing, socks and tennis shoes for marching rehearsals. Hats, water bottles, and sunscreen are strongly recommended. You are on your own for lunch. Bring your instrument everyday.

You are expected to be present at **ALL** rehearsals. This is the most important time of the fall. Marching spots will be assigned and the first show will be learned during this time. If you see an **UNAVOIDABLE** situation that will cause you to miss a session, you **MUST LET US KNOW!!** Call the Allen Band office, 972.727.0400 x 7744. If we are unable to answer, please leave a message with ALL pertinent information.

Communication is so vital. Please post this office number so you and your parents can keep us informed of your "where a bouts"! **WE MUST KNOW WHERE OUR PEOPLE ARE!**

PERCUSSION

Percussion Camp will begin on Monday, July 25 from 8:00 – 12:00 Noon and 1:00 – 4:00 pm through Thursday, July 28. You will need to bring plenty of water! Please remember to wear socks and comfortable tennis shoes, you will be marching and playing.

ROSE BOWL INFO.

We are excited about the upcoming trip to Pasadena, California to participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 2, 2006. Just a reminder, if you have not turned in a trip contract, please do so ASAP. Also, the next trip payment will be due on Registration Day, July 30 of \$ 400.00. Please make checks payable to: AHS. Start saving lawn mowing money and baby sitting money! We need everyone to make every effort to participate in representing Allen the best we can!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Reminder! 1) When school is in session, marching rehearsals begin at **7:00 a.m. each morning.** 2) **Monday nights** from **6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** at Eagle Stadium will continue to be crucial! Work schedules, Monday evening activities, and school commitments, etc, need to happen around these rehearsals. This is a MUST, as it is the only time we all meet together!

If you are not currently scheduled in band or have friends not scheduled in band, please come or have them come to summer band and STAY INVOLVED. We can fix schedules in August. Marching season is so crucial in our quest for excellence as a united group, so everyone “digs in” to insure a GREAT start.

Athletes, we have had great success dealing with scheduling with coaches to give you the opportunity to participate in both marching band and athletics. We will continue tweaking this project by the sport you are participating in, as well as, on an individual basis.

In closing, your student leaders are planning fun, social activities scattered throughout summer band. So, pull out those horns (so you won't bleed!), catch some rays (so you won't fry!), and stretch those tight muscles (so you won't CRY!) in preparation for hard work and TONS of fun! See you soon! It's going to be another GREAT YEAR!

REMINDER: PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES, FORMS, ETC. www.allenescadrille.org

Sincerely,

Mr. Gibson	Director of Bands, Performing Arts
Mr. Pennington	Marching Band Director
Mr. Bingaman	Associate Director/Percussion
Mr. Ferguson	Associate Director
Mr. Gowler	Associate Director/Jazz
Mr. Lester	Associate Director/Lowery Dir.
Mr. Boening	Associate Director/Lowery
Mrs. Smentek	Director of Drill Team/Dance
Ms. Wilson	Color Guard/Dance
Ms. Stavast	Fine Arts Admin. Asst.